December 18 , 1998 - MINUTES

Council on Information Management

Virginia Geographic Information Network Division

Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board

Virginia Economic Development Partnership

VEDP Presentation Center

Richmond, Virginia

Members Present:	The Honorable John Watkins, *Chairman*
	Daniel S. Shaffer, *Vice Chairman*
	Kenneth D. Barker
	W. Page Cockrell
	David R. Gehr
	Jean Tingler for Wayne L. Sterling
	Michael D. Clower
	William C. Cleveland
	Ken Anderson
	Dr. Mark Crain
	Jerry Simonoff
Members Absent:	The Honorable Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.
	Sue D. Hansohn
	The Honorable R. Edward Houck
	Brian P. McFadzen

The Honorable W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

Others   William D. Shinar, VGIN Division Coordinator (see
Present: attached attendance log)

The Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the Chair, the Honorable John Watkins. The meeting was held in the new VEDP Presentation Center, following an open house sponsored by the GIS staff of the VEDP.

The draft minutes of the October 15, 1998 VGIN Advisory Board meeting were approved as presented.

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VDOT Data Distribution

Tim Klinker, VDOT Cartographer, gave an update on the status of VDOT's free distribution of it digital files of highways, roads and symbology required to replicate VDOT's standard County highway maps.

Tim indicated that cartographic image files would be available in February. Shape files converted to JPEG files will be available to be downloaded into a local system. Using the same methodology used to show construction information on the VDOT web site client should soon be able to click on a project with their mouse and get more detailed information.

Ken Anderson asked whether the State (statewide) Highway Map would be distributed. Tim indicated that VDOT had no plans to do so, but that could be handled on a case by case basis. He indicated that the distribution was included in their 6 year plan and they expected it would be very helpful to economic development and local planning. Dave Gehr indicated that distribution was possible in the CD format as is done now for some construction documents.

VDOT is maintaining statistical data on the distribution of the "packages" and Tim reported the information as follows:

Oct. 15, Count Dec. 18, Count

Local Governements 76 cds 44% 103 27%

Business Community 50 cds 30% 89 23

State Government 21 cds 12% 88 23

Colleges and Universities 9 cds 5% 21 5

Individuals 8 cds 4% 48 13

Non Profit Organizations 4 cds 2% 24 6

Federal Government & other 6 cds 3% 7 3

174 100% 380 100%

James Madison University GIS and the NASA Regional Earth Science Center

Dr. Glen Gustafson, Phd., James Madison University, Department of Geography, began his presentation with a brief overview of spatial analysis and related GIS activities, projects, and programs at James Madison University.

Dr. Gustafson indicated that aerial imagery (availability and quality) is about to explode. The product should be 10 to 100 times better and in some cases quite cheap. He discussed some of the existing and new products that are expected to come on line. Dr. Gustafson then demonstrated the use of a perspective view, draping aerial photos over DEM's. He also demonstrated the use of DOQ's as a base for visualization of an area. Dr. Gustafson then discussed the new Regional Earth Science Center grant from NASA that was awarded in a partnership with the University of Maryland. The goal of the project is to build active partnerships with state agencies and local partners to apply NASA data to local problems. JMU will provide the expertise and will attempt to reach out to many partners.

While the original proposal was for a three-year project, NASA has scaled back the project to 2/3 of the original request. The primary interest is in the Mid-Atlantic landuse and landcover from remote sensing using the private sector.

NSGIC Solinet Standards Library

Mike Furlough, of the UVA Geospatial Data Center, made a presentation on the Solinet Standards Library workshop, which he attended as a representative of VGIN.

Virginia has participated over the last couple of years with the National State Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), to organize a regional digital library of Standards related to geospatial data, information and issues. David Stage, from Florida is the grant coordinator. The goal of NSGIC is to provide a web page where individuals can look at an array of documents on geospatial standards.

The critical component of the process so far has been the development of an appropriate interface. With much of that work now completed it is hoped that more information will be added to the site and that there will be updates in the future. However, there is not a clear methodology for updates (it will be the responsibility of individual participants to

keep documents current) so it is very important for users to examine the date of available documents when using the site.

Coordinator's Report

Meetings, presentations, and interviews:

Bill Shinar reviewed VGIN's activities over the last 60 days. He listed and commented on meetings, presentations and interviews with state agencies, regional planning districts, user groups, and universities and colleges.

VGIN Web Page Development:

The VGIN web page is in the process of redesign. Examples of the current work were included in the Board's handouts. The redesign process is now being moved to VIPNet and progress should be relatively fast. Bill indicated that some problems in updating the VGIN web site are being caused by VGIN's impending move. At this time VGIN relies on technical staff whose first priority is to the Y2K program. This has caused some delays in getting technical support. The problem is complicated by VGIN's anticipated move to the Richmond Plaza building (located between 6th and 7th and Cary and Main, in downtown Richmond). Bill asked Jerry Simonoff, Director of the Council on Information Management to comment on the move.

VGIN's Impending Move:

Jerry indicated that due to rapidly changing staff demands for the Y2K program and CIM, plans were well underway to move CIM (including the VGIN division) to the Richmond Plaza building as soon as possible. This would provide the space necessary to accommodate VGIN's anticipated growth and meet CIM's other staffing needs. The move will also place CIM in the same building with DIT. DIT staff will provide technical support to CIM and VGIN. Unfortunately there are the normal delays with the move. The anticipated move date is in late January or early February 1999.

Bill indicated that announcements of the move would be sent to everyone with the new address and other associated information as soon as the move was completed.

Land Records Task Force Support:

Bill indicated that he had participated with Page Cockrell on the Land Records Task Force, Local Data Model Subcommittee. Page gave a brief update indicating that they had reached a conclusion on their recommendations. Bill asked Page to make a brief presentation on the reports conclusions at the next Board meeting.

VGIN Working Groups:

Bill indicated that he has established a process that he hopes will expedite the development, evaluation, and implementation of guidelines and/or standards related to spatial data and GIS. In an effort to be as efficient and effective in developing guidelines, especially in the early stages where issues are defined, options identified, and issues examined, Bill is setting up small working groups. The groups will be kept small in order to attempt to work through the initial stages of the development process quickly. Each working group will concentrate on a specific area of interest. Participants will be selected for their expertise in the area, their ability to support the effort, and for a diversity of perspective.

Each group will be expected to prepare "white papers" or "outlines" of the issues and options related to the area they are studying. These documents will then be presented to the larger constituency for consideration.

The first Work Group is on "Metadata" and it has met once. In the near future Bill expects to establish groups on "Local Government", the "Distributed Corporate Data Library", "Clearinghouse Technologies", and "Utilities". The only factor affecting the activity of these groups has been VGIN's ability to provide administrative support.

VGIN Budget Amendment Initiatives (FY 1999-2000):

Bill Shinar reviewed the VGIN Budget Amendment as he had presented it at the last meeting. Bill then described the process that he and Jerry Simonoff went through to try and get the amendment into the Governor's budget. Bill indicated that Don Upson, the Secretary of Technology, still considered GIS and VGIN's agenda his top priority after Y2K. But the Secretary had indicated that VGIN's budget would have to fit "into" the Governor's proposals.

Bill reported that the Governor's proposed budget amendment for FY 2000, requested an additional $535,000 dollars for VGIN and three positions. Bill felt this was a very substantial amendment when the Governor's other budget initiatives were considered, and relative to what VGIN had received in the past. Bill indicated that while the budget analysts had refused to include monies for data development, they had not ruled this out for the future.

Jerry Simonoff indicated that due to the fact that this was a mid-budget amendment, the analysts felt they could not support such a major initiative. They however, did not rule out that opportunity for the next biennial budget, which is due around October 1999. He indicated that the analysts did feel that VGIN should have the funding that would allow it to establish an infrastructure that could support statewide cooperation and perhaps a more substantial initiative in the future.

In the discussion that followed, Ken Anderson indicated that he had been somewhat skeptical of the VGIN amendment as it was originally proposed because it appeared as if

VGIN was building itself up for a top down approach to GIS. Ken indicated that he feels very strongly that we should be supporting a "grassroots" effort, where initiatives come from locals who have real data and technology needs.

Ken argued that he hoped that VGIN would help establish guidelines and then that a program could be established which would provide funding directly to communities and counties that wanted to move forward with parcel mapping if they agreed to follow the VGIN guidelines and standards.

Bill indicated that he did not disagree with Ken's approach. Bill suggested that even the original staffing proposal that called for five positions was not designed to support a top down approach but in fact just the opposite. Bill argued it would require three to five staff to adequately support the initiatives that VGIN had identified (distributed corporate spatial data library, county/community spatial data network, Internet clearinghouse, Internet map server technology, and state and local partnerships). Bill also referred back to the original proposal where a portion of the funding (which was removed by the analysts) included funding for communities and localities as a matching grant for data, technology, or consulting support. Bill indicated that he felt that a sound foundation of awareness, administrative support capabilities, and consensus on guidelines and standards must be well established, before such a significant funding initiative could be successful.

Michael Clower indicated that CBLAD is continuing to provide assistance in developing GIS programs in localities in the tidewater. Mike also pointed out that CBLAD is hoping that its proposal to provide support for voluntary environmental planning in the rest of the Commonwealth will be accepted, and may help CBLAD provide similar GIS program assistance outside of the tidewater region. Mike also presented a handout on a GIS starter kit that the National Association of Counties (NACO) is providing to counties, and which was introduced at the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) conference. He indicated this is a good example of how things are quickly moving forward.

Ken Anderson mentioned his pleasure at listening to the Governor's presentation at the recent Williamsburg Technology meeting. He indicated there was very good participation and the theme was to let the private sector work from the ground up.

VEDP GIS Presentation and Demonstration – Jean Tingler and Staff

Jean Tingler and her staff give a presentation on GIS at the VEDP and a demonstration of their new state-of-the-art Presentation Center.

Jean gave a brief history of development of GIS at the VEDP. She indicated that she was instructed to gather 122 layers of vital data and that "failure was not an option". Jean then demonstrated how access to comprehensive data and analysis capabilities could be used in a "typical" site location scenario using VDOT's road files as the data backbone.

Jean gave a synopsis of the recent VEDP RFP for water and sewer infrastructure mapping and introduced Stuart Blankenship who will be the project manager.

Jean also reviewed the status of numerous databases and the VEDP's efforts to work with other agencies, as well as, localities to develop and share data. This included a demonstration of VEDP's recent work to document data on the web.

Jean introduced her staff and thanked them for the wonderful support that they continue to provide.

Chairman Watkins thanked Jean and her staff for a powerful demonstration and indicated that he was very impressed by the effort that the VEDP has made to develop its GIS. He thanked Jean and her staff for their work and support of GIS in the Commonwealth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee. No report.

Standards and Policy Committee. No report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for February 2, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in the VDOT Board room on the 3rd floor of the Annex building, located at 1401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

William D. Shinar

VGIN Division Coordinator

LOG OF ATTENDEES

Name	Company/Agency
Andrew Fox	Autometric
Jeanine L. S. Olic	ILS, Inc.

Renee P. Lacy	VA Housing Dev. Authority (VHDA)
Lysbeth Acuff	Dept. of Historical Resources (DHR)
Herb Ward	Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Robin Patton	Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Murali Rao	VDOT
Tim Klinker	VDOT
James Wilson	James Madison University
Glen Gustafson	James Madison University